



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics
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Dr. W.J. van Wagtendonk
P.O. Box 206
Cedar Mountain, N.C. 28718

Dear Dr. van Wagtendonk,

Thank you so much for your candid, warm, intimate and humane letter. I already knew the story of Beadle's revocable offer to you from June Tatum. I did not know what you told me about the way that Ed reacted to the dilemma, but what you wrote me about how you and he handled it, is exactly what I would have expected.

I am sure that you already knew that Ed himself had nothing to do with soliciting the position from Beadle; but rather that W.H. Peterson at Wisconsin had recommended Ed to him quite independently.

comparative
I wonder if I could press you further about the exact dates of the course in [^]biochemistry; which I am encouraged to do since you were able to say that there had been a party on February 16, 1940. (I guess I am intrigued whether you may not have some more explicit records that might help clear up a number of these dates).

The reason for my dilemma about that course is the anecdote that Beadle has published about the origins of the idea for using Neurospora. Is it credible that this could have happened in 1940, and still lead so promptly to the actual implementation of work on Neurospora. If you have a definite idea - which I have trouble pinning down - when laboratory work actually started with the fungus, that would be very helpful.

Please let me assure you of my sense of discretion in using the very interesting information that you have sent to me.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

*Dave Reznery thought the
course started in
JL/rr*

*1938 or 39 but was
not sure.*